

**Andrew Jackson to William Harris Crawford, December 7, 1815, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson.
Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR (WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD).1

1 Copy. Wm. H. Crawford was confirmed by the Senate as Secretary of War on Mar. 3, 1815, but his commission did not issue until Aug. 1 and he entered on the duties of the office on Aug. 8, 1815. A. J. Dallas acted in the interim.

Washington, December 7, 1815.

Sir : When I entered Pensacola in the month of Nov. 1814 a battery in the main street mounted with two French fours, was opened upon my column, which was immediately charged and carried. These pieces it is believed were landed by the British and were British property: the Spaniards have never claimed them. Having good carriages they were conveyed to Mobile where they remained until the restoration of peace, when the officer commanding at that post (Col Wm P. Anderson) was directed to have them with their equipments forwarded to Nashville with the discharged militia. The Col. dismounted them and sent only the barrels

The threatened hostility of the Indians on the Mississippi induced me to have them remounted and made ready for the field—the expense attending which amounting to \$258. has been paid out of the public funds, under the belief that they had become the property of the U States. On this subject, the circumstances of which are thus laid before you, I wish some order to be taken. If the government cannot consider them as the property

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of the nation and shall refuse to receive them, the expence of remounting them must be charged to me and the guns remain at my own disposition.